

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02430 141028Z

61

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 140920Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5312

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACRPHIL

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2430

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SN, RP

SUBJECT: A-4S TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

1. PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, PANG TEE
POW, CALLED IN AIRA MAY 14 AND INFORMED HIM HIS GOVERN-
MENT DID NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN THE BASE FIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE USG AND GOP. MORE SPECIFICALLY PANG SAID HE DID
NOT WANT AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE GOP ON
STATIONING A RSAF SKYHAWK DETACHMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES TO
CAUSE THE USG EITHER PROBLEMS OR EMBARRASSMENT IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS
OF BASE RIGHTS WITH THE GOP. CONSEQUENTLY GOS WAS PREPARED TO
DELAY ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOP UNTIL THE USG HAD COMPLETED
ITS NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, HE DID REQUEST AN ESTIMATE OF WHEN
THESE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE TERMINATED. WHEN INFORMED NEG-
GOTIATIONS COULD BECOME LENGTHY, MAYBE A YEAR OR SO, HE
STILL REQUESTED AN ESTIMATE OR GUIDE FOR GOS TO USE IN WORKING
OUT AN AGREEMENT ON STATIONING RSAF PERSONNEL IN THE PHILIPPINES
THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US.

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 02430 141028Z

2. ONE OF THE SALIENT FEATURES IN RSAF PLANNING FOR USE OF A

US FACILITY IN THE PHILIPPINES HAS INCLUDED THE USE OF THE A-4S PRESENTLY BASED AT NAS LEMOORE, CALIFORNIA. THIS PROGRAM WILL BE COMPLETED IN JULY 76 AND THE AIRCRAFT COULD BE RELOCATED ANY TIME AFTER THAT. THE RSAF HAD HOPED TO START USING THE PHILIPPINES FACILITY IN AUG-SEP 76 TIME FRAME.

3. IN VIEW OF OUR OVERALL INTERESTS HERE AS WELL AS FACTOR MENTIONED PARA 2, WE DO NOT THINK IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF EITHER THE USG OR GOS TO POSTPONE RSAF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOP. IF DEPT CONCURS, WE WILL RECOMMEND TO GOS THAT IT CONTINUE TALKS WITH THE GOP IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF NAVIGATION ROUTES AND OTHER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS TO DISCOVER GOP DESIRES RE STATUS OF RSAF. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT BEFORE GOS RESPONDS TO GOP ON STATUS OF FORCES, IT CONSULT WITH US TO SEE WHETHER WE HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH WHAT GOP HAS PROPOSED.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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